

paragraph. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121, the following is a clean version of the replacement paragraph. A marked-up version of the replacement paragraph is attached as a separate sheet.

The fluid mixture, containing coagulants, flocculants, buoyant media, and the solids to be separated, then passes through a flotation chamber feed line 24, into a flotation chamber 30. Flotation chamber 30 is configured so that entering fluid is directed upward, expediting the flotation process. A baffle 32 is an example of a structure directing entering fluid upward. The action of the buoyant media, in conjunction with the coagulant and flocculant, results in the formation of a thick sludge layer 34 at the top of flotation chamber 30. The lower region of the flotation chamber contains no outlet or mechanism for the removal of solids; all solids removed from flotation chamber 30 are removed from the upper region of flotation chamber 30. The sludge layer 34 is separated from the flotation chamber 30 into a sludge hopper 36. The separation can be effected by a chain-and-flight or reciprocating skimmer or other sludge removal device. Sludge can also be removed from the chamber 30 by hydraulic desludging. The removal of sludge, coagulant, and flocculant is effected from the upper region of flotation chamber 30. A clarified fluid 38 is formed by the removal of coagulant and flocculant from the entering fluid by the buoyant media. Optionally, a flotation assistance device 40 can be used to further hasten the flow of separated particles and buoyant media upward. Flotation assistance device 40 may be a dissolved air flotation (DAF) system or DAF pump, or dispersed air system or blower. The output from flotation assistance device 40 enters flotation chamber 30 through a flotation assistance line 42.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 22 and 23 as follows.

--22. The system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the flotation chamber has an upper region and a lower region, and wherein the lower region is free of a collection device for solids.